

## CLAIMS:

1. A template for laying out electrical conduit entry hole positions on an electrical panel housing, the template comprising:
  - a sheet having a longitudinal straight edge for engaging a wall surface on which the electrical panel is fixed;
  - a spacer zone bordered on one side by the longitudinal straight edge and extending the length of the template, wherein the width of the spacer zone in the transverse direction corresponds to the thickness of a support means used to secure the electrical conduit to the wall surface;
  - a marking zone extending parallel to the longitudinal straight edge and spaced from the longitudinal straight edge by the spacer zone, the marking zone having a width in the transverse direction corresponding to an outside diameter of a given size of electrical conduit; and
  - a plurality of apertures formed through the sheet and centered on the marking zone, the plurality of apertures forming a line parallel to the straight edge and designed to receive a tool for marking the center locations of entry holes.
2. The template of claim 1, wherein the width of the spacer zone is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch.
3. The template of claim 1, wherein the width of the spacer zone is approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.
4. The template of claim 1, wherein the width of the marking zone is approximately equal to the outside diameter of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch electrical conduit.

5. The template of claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures are spaced from one another with NECA spacing.
6. The template of claim 1, wherein the template is stamped from a metal sheet.
7. A template for laying out electrical conduit entry hole positions on an electrical panel housing, the template comprising:
  - a sheet having a perimeter with a pair of parallel longitudinal straight edges for engaging a wall surface on which the electrical panel is fixed;
  - a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch spacer zone extending the length of the template and bordered on one side by one of the longitudinal straight edges, wherein the width of the spacer zone in the transverse direction is approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch;
  - a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch spacer zone extending the length of the template and bordered on one side by the second longitudinal straight edge, wherein the width of the spacer zone in the transverse direction is approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches;
  - a longitudinal marking zone sandwiched on the sheet between the two spacer zones and oriented parallel to both longitudinal straight edges, the marking portion having a width in the transverse direction corresponding to the outside diameter of a given size of electrical conduit; and
  - a plurality of apertures formed through the sheet and centered on the longitudinal marking portion, the plurality of apertures forming a line parallel to the longitudinal straight edges

and designed to receive a tool for marking the center locations for electrical conduit.

8. The template of claim 7, wherein the width of the longitudinal marking zone corresponds to the outside diameter of 3/4 inch electrical conduit.

9. The template of claim 7, wherein the template is stamped from a metal sheet.

10. The template of claim 7, wherein the plurality of apertures are spaced from one another with NECA spacing.

11. A method for laying out the locations of electrical conduit entry holes to be made on an electrical panel housing comprising the steps of:

providing a template comprising:

a sheet having a perimeter with a pair of parallel longitudinal straight edges for engaging a wall surface on which the electrical panel is fixed;

a 3/4 inch spacer zone extending the length of the template and bordered on one side by one of the longitudinal straight edges, wherein the width of the spacer zone in the transverse direction is approximately 3/4 of an inch;

a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch spacer zone extending the length of the template and bordered on one side by the second longitudinal straight edge, wherein the width of

the spacer zone in the transverse direction is

approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches;

a longitudinal marking zone sandwiched on the sheet between the two spacer zones and oriented parallel to both longitudinal straight edges, the marking portion having a width in the transverse direction corresponding to the outside diameter of a given size of electrical conduit; and

a plurality of apertures formed through the sheet and centered on the longitudinal marking portion, the plurality of apertures forming a line parallel to the longitudinal straight edges and designed to receive a tool for marking the center locations for electrical conduit.

applying the template to the electrical panel housing so that the spacer zone with the width corresponding to the thickness of a support means to be used to secure the electrical conduit to the wall surface engages the wall surface; positioning a marking tool inside the desired apertures and marking the locations of the entry holes to be made on the electrical panel housing.

12. A template for laying out the locations of electrical conduit entry holes on an electrical panel housing comprising:

a sheet having at least one longitudinal straight edge disposed perpendicular to at least one transverse straight edge, wherein the transverse straight edge is for engaging a wall surface adjacent to the electrical panel housing

a spacer zone bordering the transverse edge of the sheet and  
 having a width in the longitudinal direction equal to the  
 thickness of a support means used to secure the electrical  
 conduit to the wall surface;  
 a plurality of apertures formed through the sheet to receive a tool  
 for marking the centers of entry holes on the housing, the  
 apertures variably spaced from the spacer zone by  
 distances equal to the radiuses of a multitude of conduit  
 sizes.

13. The template of claim 12, wherein the width of the spacer zone is  
 approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch.

14. The template of claim 12, wherein the width of the spacer zone is  
 approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

15. The template of claim 13 further including a second spacer zone  
 bordering a second transverse edge of the sheet and spacing a second plurality of  
 apertures from the second transverse edge, the second spacer zone having a  
 width in the longitudinal direction approximately equal to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

16. The template of claim 12, wherein the template is stamped from a  
 metal sheet.

17. A template for laying out the locations of electrical conduit entry  
 holes on an electrical panel housing comprising:

a sheet having a longitudinal straight edge disposed perpendicular to a transverse straight edge, wherein both straight edges are for engaging a wall surface adjacent to the electrical panel housing

a longitudinal spacer zone bordered on one side by the longitudinal straight edge and extending the length of the template, wherein the width of the spacer zone in the transverse direction corresponds to the thickness of a support means used to secure the electrical conduit to the wall surface

a transverse spacer zone bordering the transverse edge of the sheet and having a width in the longitudinal direction equal to the thickness of the support means;

a uniform marking zone extending parallel to the longitudinal straight edge and spaced from the longitudinal straight edge by the longitudinal spacer zone, the uniform marking zone having a width in the transverse direction corresponding to the outside diameter of a given size of electrical conduit and further including a plurality of longitudinal apertures formed through the sheet and centered on the uniform marking zone in a line running parallel to the longitudinal straight edge, the apertures being designed to receive a marking tool;

a graduated marking zone extending parallel to the transverse straight edge and spaced from the transverse straight edge by the transverse spacer zone, the graduated marking zone having a width in the longitudinal direction equal to the thickness of the support means and a first set of graduated

apertures formed through the sheet to receive a tool for marking the centers of entry holes, wherein the first set of apertures are variably spaced from the spacer zone to facilitate the marking of entry holes for varying sizes of conduit.

18. The template of claim 17, wherein the width of the transverse spacer zone is approximately either  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.
19. The template of claim 18 further including a second transverse spacer zone bordering a second transverse edge of the sheet and spacing a second graduated marking zone with a second set of graduated apertures from the second transverse edge, the second transverse spacer zone having a width in the longitudinal direction of approximately either  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.
20. The template of claim 19, wherein the width of the longitudinal spacer zone is approximately either  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.
21. The template of claim 20 further including a second longitudinal spacer zone bordering a second longitudinal straight edge and spacing the uniform marking zone from the second longitudinal edge, the second longitudinal spacer zone having a width in the longitudinal direction of approximately either  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

22. The template of claim 20, wherein both graduated marking zones overlap the same longitudinal spacer zone so that both sets of graduated apertures are located on the overlapping portions.

23. The template of claim 16, wherein the template is stamped from a metal sheet.